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December 29, 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Under Secretary of State
 Deputy Secretary of Defense
 Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: White House Communication regarding Rosenberg Case.

A committee, representing State, Defense, CIA, and PSC Staff, has prepared the enclosed draft of a suggested statement to be issued by the President.

It will be noted, however, that the Board is asked "... as to whether such a statement should be issued...".

My conclusion is that the Board should meet to decide the answer to this question and approve the statement as enclosed, or corrected as desired.

It has been tentatively arranged by telephone that the meeting be held tomorrow morning, December 30, at 11 a.m. in the office of the Under Secretary of State.

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Document No. 6
 Review of this document by CIA has determined that

- CIA has no objection to declass
- It contains information of CIA interest that must remain classified at TS S
- Authority: HR 70-2
- It contains nothing of CIA

Date 240381 Reviewer

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DRAFT OF PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

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ROSENBERG CASE

I have given earnest consideration to the records in the case of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and to the appeals for clemency made on their behalf. These two individuals have been tried and convicted of a most serious crime against the people of the United States. They have been found guilty of conspiring with intent and reason to believe that it would be to the advantage of a foreign power, the USSR, to deliver to the agents of that foreign power certain highly secret atomic information relating to the national defense of the United States.

The nature of the crime for which they have been found guilty and sentenced far exceeds that of the taking of the life of another citizen; it involves the deliberate betrayal of the entire nation and could very well result in the death of many, many thousands of innocent citizens. By their act these two individuals have in fact betrayed the cause of freedom for which free men are fighting and dying at this very hour.

We are a nation under law and our affairs are governed by the just exercise of these laws. The courts have provided every opportunity for the submission of evidence bearing on this case. All rights of appeal were exercised and the decision of the court was upheld after full judicial review, including that of the highest court in the land. I have made a

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careful examination into this case and am satisfied that the two individuals have been accorded their full measure of justice.

In the time-honored tradition of American justice, a freely selected jury of their fellow-citizens considered the evidence in this case and rendered its judgment. No new evidence or mitigating circumstances have been brought forth to alter this decision, and I have determined that I cannot, in the interest of the people of the United States, set aside the verdict of its representatives.

In order that the people of the United States may be reminded of the character of the crime for which these two individuals are being punished, I am making available a summary of the facts in the case which has been prepared for me by the Department of Justice.

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